

JOEL BRERETON*

REPORT ON
THE THIRTEENTH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

The Thirteenth World Sanskrit Conference took place in Edinburgh Scotland, from 10th to 14th July, 2006. It was attended by around 380 participants from thirty different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, U.K., U.S.A. The largest single contingent came from India itself, followed by the United States and Japan. The conference was organised with great dedication and efficiency by John Brockington, Paul Dundas and Peter Bisschop, with the able assistance of Janet Pearse as secretary and the generous help of Mary Brockington. Also especially worthy of recognition were the efforts of the volunteers from the School of Asian Studies and the Centre for South Asian Studies, who were unfailingly courteous and helpful to those attending the conference. After an opening reception on Sunday evening 9th July, held in the Kirkland Room at the Pollock Halls of Residence, where most of the participants were accommodated, the conference itself took place in the George Square area of the university (in the David Hume Tower and immediately adjacent buildings).

* Member of the Board, International Association of Sanskrit Studies [based on information supplied by John Brockington].

The conference was organised into fourteen sections (Veda; Epics; Purāṇas; Āgamas and Tantras; Vyākaraṇa; Linguistics; Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics; Scientific Literature; Buddhist Studies; Jaina Studies; Philosophy; History, Epigraphy and the Arts; Law and Society; and Culture and Tradition) and a Śāstracarcāsadas (held on the Friday morning), with five sessions being held concurrently throughout Monday afternoon to Friday morning. The main feature of the opening plenary session on the Monday morning was an address by Professor Ram Karan Sharma, the retiring President of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies: “Svāgatam”. Throughout the conference, the displays by various booksellers were well frequented, especially during the coffee breaks, and proved a useful adjunct to the conference. The National Library of Scotland hosted an event on Tuesday evening, 11th July, at which its holdings, both manuscripts and printed books, in the field of South Asian Studies were highlighted, as well as new or forthcoming books by all the Edinburgh Sanskritists. On Wednesday evening, 12th July, the Consul General of India, Shri P. S. Randhawa (a member of the local organising committee) hosted a well-attended reception for participants in the magnificent setting of the Assembly Rooms on George Street, Edinburgh, addressed both by Shri Randhawa and the High Commissioner, Shri Kamallesh Sharma. A fine and convivial conference dinner was held on Thursday evening, 13th July in the South Hall at Pollock Halls.

The General Meeting of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies preceding the closing plenary session on Friday afternoon, 14th July, passed a formal vote of thanks for the munificent grant from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, which had made possible substantial subsidies on accommodation for the Indian participants (and certain others needing such assistance), as well as contributing to the Śāstracarcāsadas and the Kavisammelana. The General Meeting also ratified the decision approved by the Board that the next conference in 2009 would be hosted by colleagues at the University of Kyoto and the offer (recommended by the Board and Consultative Committee) from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to organise the following conference in 2012 was announced and accepted the offer (recommended by the Board and

Consultative Committee) from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to organise the following conference in 2012. Participants were reminded that the Treasurer would be happy to receive subscriptions to the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. The proceedings also included several presentations of books to Edinburgh University Library.

The final event of the conference on the Friday evening again took place in the Kirkland Room at Pollock Halls: a well-attended Kavisammelana. A considerable number of our Indian colleagues recited their original Sanskrit poetry, some of it published in the volume, *Kavidvādaśī*, which had been released at the opening plenary session, thus fittingly rounding off the conference as a whole.

The efforts of the organising committee and volunteers at the University of Edinburgh caused the conference to run smoothly from beginning to end and earned the gratitude of all its participants. Also, the University whose warm welcome was extended by its Principal, Professor Timothy O'Shea, was a most gracious host to the conference. And finally, the conference participants themselves were a diverse, affable, and learned assembly, which made this gathering a friendly and stimulating occasion.

RADHAVALLABH TRIPATHI

REPORT OF THE KAVISAMMELANA IN THE WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE HELD AT EDINBURGH FROM 10TH TO 14TH JULY, 2006

Sanskrit Kavisammelana was held on 14th July, 2006 in the Kirkland Room at the Pollock Halls of the University of Edinburgh from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. This was the first Kavisammelana organised officially as part of a WSC in the history of this prestigious conference organised by the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. The credit for this immensely significant event goes to the initiative of the organisers of the conference and the financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Scholars attended the Kavisammelana from all over the world. The Sanskrit scholars from countries outside India especially appreciated and applauded the presentations of contemporary Sanskrit poetry.

The following poets presented their poems in this Kavisammelana:

1. Ramkaran Sharma, President of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies
2. Radhavallabh Tripathi, chairman and convenor of the Kavisammelana programme
3. Prof. Srinivas Rath, Ujjain
4. Hare Krishna Satpathy, Vice Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapith (Deemed University) Tirupati

5. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra, former Vice-chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi
6. Kamlesh Data Tripathi, Director, Kalidasa Akademi, Ujjain
7. Murali Madhavan, Professor of Sahitya and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Shri Shankaracharya University, Kaladi, Kerala
8. Raja Ram Shukla, Director, Department of Research, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi
9. Shankarji Jha, Professor of Sanskrit, Panjab University, Chandigarh
10. Bhaskaracharya Tripathi, formerly Secretary of M.P. Sanskrit Academy, Bhopal
11. (Mrs.) Pushpa Dixit, Bilaspur, Chattisgarh
12. Ramakant Shukla, Secretary, Devvani Parishad, New Delhi
13. Haridatta Sharma, Professor of Sanskrit, Allahabad University, Allahabad
14. Murli Manohar Pathak, Reader, Sanskrit Department, Vikram University, Ujjain
15. Shrikrishna Sharma, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra
16. Ichcha Ram Dwivedi, Reader, Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapith, New Delhi
17. C. S. Radhakrishnan, Reader, Vivekanand College, Chennai

Radhavallabh Tripathi presided over the session and also conducted the whole programme. He expressed his satisfaction over the large number of poets as well as the audience coming from various parts of the globe. Each poet was introduced with critical remarks about his literary achievements.

Radhavallabh Tripathi also informed the audience that the following poets are recipients of the Sahitya Akademi Award (given every year for creative writing to authors of Indian Languages by the National Academy of Letters in India):

1. Ramkaran Sharma
2. Srinivas Rath
3. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra
4. Radhavallabh Tripathi
5. Bhaskaracharya Tripathi

And also the following poets are honoured with Vachaspati Puraskar, one of the biggest awards for literature in India:

1. Ramkaran Sharma
2. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra.

The poems unfolded the vision, world-view, nuances, variety of themes and beauty of contemporary creativity in Sanskrit. The audience, forming citizens from all over the globe, enjoyed this rich feast of poetry and they welcomed the new movements and experimentations of contemporary Sanskrit writing as evinced through the presentations. One of the poems presented in this symposium was focussed on the recent bomb-blast in Mumbai; it brought out the concern of the Sanskrit poet to save humanity from the attacks of terrorism. Poems appreciating the beauty of Edinburgh city were also presented. Kamlesh Datta Tripathi's poem on Europe was a moving experience of cross-cultural perspectives. Poems by Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra, Ramakant Shukla and Haridatta Sharma especially dealt with their experiences of travelling in Europe. Poems by Ramkaran Sharma and Radhavallabh Tripathi were appreciated for rare sensibility, experience of crisis and transition in the modern world and inculcation of ancient wisdom.

Release of Kavidvadashi

Kavidvadashi, an anthology of contemporary Sanskrit Poetry comprising poems mostly by the poets participating in this kavisammelana was released in the inaugural session of the World Sanskrit Conference. Radhavallabh Tripathi, chairman and convenor of the Kavisammelana, has edited it. 58 original Sanskrit poems by 12 poets with English translation of each poem have been included in this anthology.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SANSKRIT STUDIES
(IASS)

MEETINGS OF THE I.A.S.S.
DURING THE 13TH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE
HELD IN EDINBURGH

Minutes of the meeting of the I.A.S.S. Board
Edinburgh, 10th July 2006

Present: Prof. R. K. Sharma, President, Prof. Bruno Dagens, Treasurer, Prof. John Brockington, Secretary General, Prof. Joel Brereton, Prof. Yasuke Ikari, Prof. Yaroslav Vassilkov.

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting held at Helsinki on 15th July 20003 were approved.
2. The Secretary General reported on the 12th WSC held in Helsinki (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 29, 2003, pp. 329-30). He also noted that his main activity had been communications (mostly by e-mail) with the Board and the Consultative Committee, both collectively and individually on various matters, including the venue for the 14th WSC. He announced the substantial grant being made by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, towards the running of the curent WSC and expressed gratitude on behalf of the conference organisers; the Board agreed to put a formal resolution to the General Meeting to express thanks for this grant.
3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances. He noted that they looked sound (9 976,60 euros in our bank accounts at the time of the opening of the 13th Conference) but that was mainly due to the generous grant of the Indian Government given for the organisation of the present Conference, following which the IASS did not need to contribute (for the 12th Conference held in Helsinki, the IASS contribution was 6 000 euros, to which was added a special grant of 2 000 euros from UNESCO, a grant which was not renewed for the present conference). The Association was thus already in possession of a good basis for its contribution to the funding of the next conference; in case of need a part of our present reserves may be of some help for the publication of the proceedings

of the present conference. This being the case, our sound finances are not linked with any increase in the number of paid-up individual members which remains very low (even if as usual several members are expected to pay their fees during the conference itself): it was around 60 at the opening of the conference. Due to the lack of effectiveness of the costly reminders sent by post, it is proposed to launch a systematic reminder and recruiting campaign by e-mail, using the data-base of the present conference.

4. Election/re-election of members of the Board and Consultative Committee.
 - a) Professor Ram Karan Sharma wished to resign as President, while affirming his willingness to continue serving the Association. The Board thanked him warmly for all his services to the association and decided to recommend his election as an honorary Vice-President to the General Meeting. The Board also decided to recommend Professor V. Kutumba Sastry for election as the next President.
 - b) Professors Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Joel Brereton, Carlos da Fonseca, Yasuke Ikari and Yaroslav Vassilkov were willing to stand for re-election and the Board agreed to recommend them. Professor Oscar Botto wished to resign as a Regional Director and the suggestion had been made that Dr Irma Piovano should be nominated for election as his successor; the Board agreed to recommend this. No reply had been received from Professor Wezler and the Board agreed that in the circumstances it would recommend Professor Oskar von Hinüber to replace him.
 - c) Professors Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Mislav Ježić, Vijay Rajopadhyay, T. S. Rukmani, Ram Murti Sharma and Gyula Wojtilla were willing to stand for re-election as Consultative Committee members and the Board agreed to recommend their re-election; Professor Krzysztof Byrski wished to resign; no replies had been received from Professors Gregory Bongard-Levin, Juan Miguel de Mora, Gerhard Oberhammer, Mahesh Raj Pant and Huang Xin-Chuan. It was agreed that the Secretary General should make further efforts to contact the latter and ascertain whether they were willing to continue in office. It was also agreed to recommend Professor Muneo

Tokunaga and Dr Victoria Lysenko (subject to their agreement to nomination) for election to the Consultative Committee.

5. The Board confirmed its previous acceptance of the offer by colleagues in Kyoto University to host the 14th WSC in 2009, subject to ratification by the General Meeting later in the week.
6. The Board discussed the three offers that had been received to host the 15th WSC from colleagues in the Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University (Bangkok), from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and from Dr Vijay Rajopadhyay. [A brief presentation of the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan had been made by Professor V. Kutumba Sastry immediately before the start of the Board meeting, which included the information that the offer had been approved in principle by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.] The Board agreed to recommend the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to the General Meeting.
7. Recognition. In terms of the resolution passed at Helsinki to introduce the status of Research Fellow (honorary), the Board decided after discussion to recommend to the General Meeting the names of Mary Brockington, Petteri Koskikallio and Gary Tubb for election to this position.
8. A document on “Problems of Sanskrit Teaching in Nepal” had been circulated to Board members at the request of Professor Neelmani Dhungana, Mahendra Sanskrit University, Nepal. It was agreed that the Secretary General should write to Professor Dhungana to express support, that copies should be made available at the General Meeting and that the text should be included in the next IASS Newsletter.
9. The membership of the adjudication panel for the DK Award (details of which had been circulated to all participants in their conference bags) was discussed and it was agreed to recommend that the panel should consist of Professors Brockington, Dagens and Rukmani and that it be given the power to co-opt a fourth member if needed (with Professor Kutumba Sastry to be consulted over suitable individuals).
10. News of the establishment of a new centre of Oriental Studies in Lithuania was welcomed.
11. The President closed the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of the I.A.S.S. Consultative Committee
Edinburgh, 11th July 2006

Present: Professors R. K. Sharma, Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Joel Brereton, Yasuke Ikari, Mislav Ježić, Ram Murti Sharma, Yaroslav Vassilkov and Gyula Wojtilla.

1. The Consultative Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Board for election as President, Board members and Consultative Committee members. The suggestion was made that a nominating committee should be instituted and it was agreed to give this further consideration. It was agreed that it would be desirable to elect Consultative Committee members from South America and Africa and a further member from India and that the Secretary General should investigate possibilities, as well as making further efforts to secure replies from those who had not responded regarding re-nomination.
2. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's acceptance of Kyoto as the venue for the 14th WSC in 2009 and agreed to recommend both that and the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in 2012 to the General Meeting. The Consultative Committee also agreed that the Secretary General should write to the colleagues at Silpakorn University expressing thanks for their offer and encouraging them to consider making another offer in the future.
3. The Consultative Committee also endorsed the Board's recommendations for election as Research Fellows and as members of the adjudication panel for the DK Award.
4. The President closed the meeting.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the I.A.S.S.
Edinburgh, 14th July 2006

Present: Prof. R. K. Sharma, President, Prof. Bruno Dagens, Treasurer, Prof. John Brockington, Secretary General, and around twenty members.

1. The President opened the meeting. After a brief tribute to Professor M. B. Emeneau by Professor Robert P. Goldman, the Secretary General read out the names of other scholars who had died since the Helsinki conference (as recorded in I.A.S.S. Newsletter 8) and the meeting stood in silent tribute to their memory. The minutes of the General Meeting held at Helsinki, 16th July 2003 (printed in Newsletter 8) were accepted.
2. The Secretary General reported on the 12th WSC held in Helsinki (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 29, 2003, pp. 329-30). He also noted that his main activity had been communications (mostly by e-mail) with the Board and the Consultative Committee, both collectively and individually on various matters, including the venue for the 14th WSC. [Petteri Koskikallio gave a progress report on publication of the Helsinki proceedings to the closing plenary session which followed this meeting.]
3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances and membership numbers (as detailed above in the minutes of the Board).
4. The Secretary General reminded the meeting of the very substantial grant made by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, towards the running of this WSC, expressed gratitude on behalf of the conference organisers and put a formal resolution to the General Meeting to express thanks for this grant; the resolution was passed with acclamation (text given below).
5. Election/re-election of members of the Board and Consultative Committee.
 - a) The General Meeting expressed its warm thanks to Professor Ram Karan Sharma for his services as President and accepted the recommendation of the Board and Consultative Committee that he should be elected an honorary Vice-President. The meeting also accepted the recommendation of the Board and

Consultative Committee that Professor V. Kutumba Sastry be elected the next President.

- b) The General Meeting re-elected Professors Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Joel Brereton, Carlos da Fonseca, Yasuke Ikari and Yaroslav Vassilkov to the Board, elected Dr Irma Piovano to succeed Professor Oscar Botto and elected Professor Oskar von Hinüber to replace Professor Albrecht Wezler.
 - c) The General Meeting re-elected Professors Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Mislav Ježić, Vijay Rajopadhyay, T. S. Rukmani, Ram Murti Sharma and Gyula Wojtilla as Consultative Committee members and elected Professor Hassan Rezai Baghbidi, Dr. C. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor Muneo Tokunaga and Dr Victoria Lysenko. It also agreed that the Secretary General should make further efforts to contact those existing members who had not replied to his enquiry and ascertain whether they were willing to continue in office.
6. In terms of the resolution passed at Helsinki to introduce the status of Research Fellow (honorary), the General Meeting elected Mary Brockington, Petteri Koskikallio and Gary Tubb to this position. It also endorsed the Board's recommendations about the selection of members of the adjudication panel for the DK Award and gave it the power to co-opt a fourth member as necessary.
 7. The General Meeting ratified the previous acceptance by the Board of the offer by colleagues at Kyoto University to host the 14th WSC in 2009 and endorsed the recommendation by the Board and the Consultative Committee that the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in 2012 be accepted.
 8. The General Meeting also welcomed the news of the establishment of a new centre of Oriental Studies in Lithuania. The availability of copies of a document on "Problems of Sanskrit Teaching in Nepal" by Professor Neelmani Dhungana, Mahendra Sanskrit University, Nepal, was announced and the meeting agreed that the Secretary General should write to Professor Dhungana to express support and that the text of the document should be included in the next IASS Newsletter.
 9. The President closed the meeting.

Resolution passed during the General Meeting of the I.A.S.S.
13th World Sanskrit Conference,
Edinburgh, 14th July 2006

The General Assembly of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, meeting on 14th July 2006, records its profound appreciation of the grant from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, through the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, of £ 25,000 towards the expenses of the 13th World Sanskrit Conference held in Edinburgh, 10th-14th July 2006.

The International Association of Sanskrit Studies

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PROFESSOR RAM KARAN SHARMA

Professor Ram Karan Sharma has done a vast amount for Sanskrit studies over the years, especially during his time as President of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies between 1984 and 2006. In that role he has been a worthy successor to Professors V. Raghavan and R. N. Dandekar. I count it a great privilege to have known all three scholars but I became more intimate with Professor Sharma through our shared activity on behalf of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. His genial presence presiding over our World Sanskrit Conferences and at our business meetings has been a great asset to the Association, while he has done much valuable work behind the scenes to advance its cause, and it is very clear how close its interests are to his heart.

Because of our mutual interest in the Sanskrit epics, my own first introduction to Professor Sharma as a scholar was reading his *Elements of Poetry in the Mahābhārata* (Berkeley, 1966), which was published while I was in the middle of my own doctoral research on the language and style of the *Rāmāyaṇa* and was most helpful to my research. That book was, of course, the definitive outcome of his study as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California under Professor M. B. Emeneau (whose recent death we mourn) and represents a pioneering analysis of the *upamānas* employed in the *Ādi*, *Sabhā* and *Āraṇyaka parvans*. It has become a classic in the field of epic studies, one mark of which is that it was reissued in 1988 (by Motilal Banarsidass) with the welcome addition of indices. His major contribution to epic studies was appropriately marked by a felicitation volume a decade ago, *Modern Evaluation of the Mahābhārata: Prof. R.K. Sharma Felicitation Volume*, edited by S.P. Narang (Delhi, 1995), with a most distinguished list of contributors from Professor D.H.H. Ingalls onwards.

But indeed, even before the publication of his *Elements of Poetry*, Professor Sharma had been making a significant name for himself in our discipline. Born in 1927 at Shivapur (Saran District, Bihar), he had gained an M.A. in Sanskrit and Hindi from Patna University, as

well as the Sāhityācārya, Vyākaraṇa Śāstrī and Vedānta Śāstrī degrees from the Bihar Sanskrit Association, and was by then Special Officer (Sanskrit) of the Government of India (1961-70), also serving as the Secretary of the Central Sanskrit Board.

Subsequently he became the Founder Director of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, which came into existence on 15th October 1970 to promote and develop Sanskrit throughout India. He was its Director from 1970 to 1974 and then again from 1980 to 1983. In between these two periods of service, he was Vice-Chancellor of the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University from 1974 to 1980, and following the second of these terms he became Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India, 1983-84, and thereafter Vice-Chancellor of Sampūrṇānanda Sanskrit University, Varanasi, 1984-1985.

At different times he has been a visiting professor at various universities in the United States of America, at Columbia, Chicago and Berkeley, which is just one mark of the esteem in which he is held as an international scholar. Equally, he has been active in celebrating the achievements of others, for example in his pains-taking editing of *Researches in Indian and Buddhist Philosophy: Essays in Honour of Professor Alex Wayman* (Delhi, 1993), to which he himself contributed an article on stotra literature. He is noted not only for his contributions to scholarship on Sanskrit – as author, editor and translator – but also for his original works in Sanskrit, both several poetry collections and two novels.

It is appropriate, therefore, that he has received numerous awards for his many and varied contributions to Sanskrit scholarship and literature, including the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1989, the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award in the same year, the Delhi Sanskrit Academy Award, the 13th Vachaspati Puraskar in 2004 (awarded by the K. K. Birla Foundation for his Sanskrit poem *Gaganavāṇī*) and most significantly of all the Presidential Award of Honour in Sanskrit.

Yet, even in the midst of such a glittering career, he has always found the time and energy to contribute in an exemplary fashion to the well-being of our discipline, as indeed some of what has been mentioned already shows. However, in terms of his long and distinguished service to the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, it is signif-

icant also to note that he was the Organising Secretary of the 1st and 5th World Sanskrit Conferences, held at New Delhi in 1972 and Varanasi in 1981. He has therefore been intimately involved with the Association since its very inception and his term as its President over more than twenty years is simply the culmination of this outstanding service to our discipline.

John Brockington
The University of Edinburgh
Secretary General, International Association of Sanskrit Studies



13th World Sanskrit Conference, The University of Edinburgh.
10th July 2006, opening plenary session.
Professor Ram Karan Sharma speaking.



13th World Sanskrit Conference, The University of Edinburgh.
14th July 2006, closing plenary session.
Professors John Brockington, Ram Karan Sharma, V. Kutumba Sastry speaking.

PROFESSOR V. KUTUMBA SASTRY

The newly elected President of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies is Professor V. Kutumba Sastry. He was born in 1950 at Gudlavalleru, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, and had his Ṛgveda adhyayana at Tirupati; he qualified *Vidyāpravīna* (M.A.) from Andhra University, Waltair, and *Śiromaṇi* (M.A.) from the University of Madras. He received *Vidyāvaridhi* (Ph.D.) degree from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, and has also qualified in *M.A. (Philosophy)* and *P.G. Diploma in Yoga* from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

He worked as a Lecturer in Sri Narasimha Samskrit College, Chittiguduru, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, from 1974 to 1978 and in the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi from 1978-1987, being promoted to Reader from 1987. He next held the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Pondicherry University from 1990 until 2004. He became Director of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India) in November, 1999 and then, in May 2003, its Vice Chancellor, the position he currently holds.

His specialisations are in Advaita Vedānta, the Darśanas, Poetics, Sanskrit Literature and Spoken Sanskrit. He has written six books and more than 30 papers, published in various journals. He has participated in about 150 national and international seminars or conferences, has delivered around 100 invited lectures in various universities and similar institutions, and several of his poems have been published in various Sanskrit magazines and are soon to be published in two volumes. He is or has been a member of many important committees and most recently he presided over the Śāstracarcāsadas at the 13th World Sanskrit Conference in Edinburgh.

Professor Kutumba Sastry's books:

1. *Upaniṣadaḥ – ekaḥ paricayaḥ*, published as part of the Silver Jubilee Publications Series of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, 1993.
2. *Vanamālā*, a collection of poems, 1998.
3. *Īkṣā* (ed.) (Proceedings of the All India Sanskrit Sikshaka Sammelan). Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, 2001.
4. *Teach Yourself Samskrit – First Level Material* (ed.). Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, 2002.
5. *Teach Yourself Samskrit – Third Level Material: Saṃkṣeparāmā-yaṇam* (ed.). Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, 2002.
6. *Teach Yourself Samskrit – Second Level Material* (ed.). Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, 2004.

John Brockington
The University of Edinburgh
Secretary General, International Association of Sanskrit Studies

DK AWARD FOR THE OUTSTANDING
DOCTORAL THESIS ON SANSKRIT

This award will be given every three years to a scholar of Sanskrit, who is based outside South Asia (India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives), since its purpose is to encourage scholarly study of Sanskrit beyond the subcontinent, and it will consist of DK books to the value of US\$ 500.

It will be awarded on the basis of the first doctoral dissertation of a postgraduate student on a Sanskrit topic, provided that the dissertation has been accepted and the degree awarded by a university or institution of comparable status outside South Asia during the three calendar years preceding the year in which each World Sanskrit Conference (WSC) is held.

The International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS) will form an adjudication panel of three to four members to evaluate the dissertations received and to announce its decision at the next WSC.

Conditions

1. Scholars interested in this award should first give notice of intention to compete and will then be required to submit one copy of their thesis, together with a photocopy of the degree document and a letter of support from their main supervisor, to the screening panel before the deadline of 31st January of the year in which the WSC will take place; in addition to the paper copy, candidates for the award should also submit the thesis in electronic form, if possible, and should send all documentation to the Secretary General of the IASS. Candidates shall also send their CVs to D.K. Agencies (P) Ltd., New Delhi for their information.
2. A Sanskrit topic is to be understood as one concerned primarily with the Sanskrit language, Sanskrit literature or the subject matter of a text or texts composed in Sanskrit.

3. The IASS will decide and announce the membership of the adjudication panel at each WSC. The adjudication panel will examine all theses so received and decide the name of the award winner before the conference. The decision of the panel shall be treated as final. The name of the award winner will be announced during the conference and a certificate issued to the winner. In the event of the panel deciding that two dissertations tie for first place, there may be a maximum of two joint award winners. The panel (either directly or through the Secretary General of the IASS) will inform D.K. Agencies (P) Ltd., New Delhi about the name and address of the award winner(s).
4. The award will be in the form of books worth US\$ 500.00 (inclusive of postage) to be selected by the awardee either from the DK website <<http://www.dkagencies.com>> or their catalogues at the prices stated therein. The amount of the award cannot be converted or reimbursed in cash or any other form except books and the postage thereon. In the event of a tie, this amount will be divided equally among the two award winners.
5. D.K. Agencies (P) Ltd. do not take responsibility for any expenditures other than the books worth \$ 500.00 (inclusive of postage) to be made available to the award winner(s). D.K. Agencies are simply the sponsors of this award in the form of books. D.K. Agencies (P) Ltd. reserve the right to withdraw this award with effect from a subsequent conference by announcing its withdrawal during any WSC.